

## ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

### English/Language Arts – Grade 7

#### Grade 7

##### Pass+

*Pass+* students demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, analyzing, synthesizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate fiction and nonfiction text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students use their knowledge of word roots and word parts to demonstrate advanced understanding of figurative language and unknown words. *Pass+* students display advanced writing skills using appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as persuasive and expository writing and responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Understand symbolism used in literary text (e.g., *a dove symbolizes peace*)
- Identify the type of narration used to relate text (i.e., limited, omniscient, subjective, objective)
- Understand the ways that an author can use a text to influence a reader
- Locate information using a variety of resources
- Write using transitions and accurate bibliographic citations
- Use credible evidence and emotional appeals to write persuasive compositions, clearly addressing audience concerns
- Write using complex sentences and punctuation, such as commas, dashes, and brackets

#### Grade 7

##### Pass

*Pass* students demonstrate proficient understanding when reading, analyzing, synthesizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate fiction and nonfiction text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students use their knowledge of word roots and word parts to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of figurative language and unknown words. *Pass* students display satisfactory writing skills using mostly appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as persuasive and expository writing and responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Understand cause and effect relationships presented in text
- Identify and understand idioms and comparisons, such as metaphors and similes (e.g., idiom: *Time flies when you're having fun!* metaphor: *I'm a night owl.* simile: *The diamonds sparkled like the night stars.*)
- Respond to literature using important text-based evidence
- Clarify word meanings through the application of word roots, word parts, definition, and examples
- Use compound sentences that include main and supporting ideas
- Use hyphens, quotation marks, semicolons
- Write persuasive compositions containing a clear perspective and supporting details

#### Grade 7

##### Did Not Pass

*Did Not Pass* students demonstrate limited understanding when reading, analyzing, synthesizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate fiction and nonfiction text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students use their knowledge of word roots and word parts to demonstrate a partial understanding of figurative language and unknown words. *Did Not Pass* students display limited writing skills using basic standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as persuasive and expository writing and responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Identify events that continue the plot of a story
- Identify the type of narration used in text (i.e., first person, third person)
- Write for different purposes and audiences using appropriate tone and writing style
- Write simple sentences containing correct capitalization
- Recognize parts of speech, including nouns, verbs, and conjunctions